

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WJDYESS:VT
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A/FBO- C. SWAN (SUB)
EX - ARATTRAY
A - R. LAMB (DRAFT)

----- 086655

R 100021Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, OGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: NEW EMBASSY PROJECTS: SOVIET FINAL DRAWINGS

1. MID-AFTERNOON MAY 7, WITH ONLY 20 MINUTES NOTICE, THE SOVIET EMBASSY HANDED OVER TO EUR/SOV THE FINAL DRAWINGS FOR THE NEW SOVIET EMBASSY ALONG WITH A REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT AGREE TO SUBMIT THE DRAWINGS BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TO THE NATIONAL CAPITOL PLANNING COMMISSION. THE SOVIET DESIRE FOR HASTE WAS OCCASIONED BY A DEADLINE THEN LESS THAN TWO HOURS AWAY BY WHICH TIME THE DRAWINGS HAD TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE COMMISSION TO AGREE TO CONSIDER PLACING FORMAL REVIEW OF THE DRAWINGS ON THE AGENDA OF ITS QUOTE MAY UNQUOTE MEETING. THE DEADLINE WAS MISSED, AND THE EARLIEST PROSPECT NOW FOR THE COMMISSION'S SCHEDULING FORMAL REVIEW IS FOR ITS QUOTE JUNE UNQUOTE MEETING. (FYI: EACH MONTH'S MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE THE FIRST WEEK OF THE FOLLOWTNG MONTH.)

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2. WE EXPLAINED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY (INCLUDING

VORONTSOV, WHO TELEPHONED) THAT THERE WAS NO PRACTICAL WAY WE COULD OBTAIN CLEARANCES FROM ALL INTERESTED OFFICES (FYI: INCLUDING GSA) TO TRANSMIT THE PLANS WITHIN THE BRIEF TIME OF BUSINESS LEFT THAT DAY. THE SOVIETS ASKED

WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO TRANSMIT THE DRAWINGS FORTHWITH TO THE COMMISSION, AND THEN CONDUCT THE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW SUBSEQUENTLY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW. WE EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE IN THE TIME REMAINING TO SEEK THE AGREEMENT OF ALL INTERESTED OFFICES TO SUCH A PROCEDURE. WE NOTED THAT COMPLETION OF THE FINAL SOVIET DRAWINGS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL AND THAT HAD WE RECEIVED THEM AT THAT TIME THE MAY 7 DEADLINE COULD PERHAPS HAVE BEEN MET.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS MADE A SET OF THE SOVIET DRAWINGS AVAILABLE IN SOV AND FBO AND TELEPHONED INTERESTED PARTIES TO URGE THEY EXPEDITE THEIR REVIEW. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY AS APPROPRIATE.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD INQUIRE OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES STATUS OF SOVIET REVIEW US PRELIMINARY PLANS AND ASK WHEN APPROVAL CAN BE EXPECTED.

5. FYI: INITIAL REACTION OF ONE INTERESTED OFFICE WAS TO QUESTION WHETHER DEPARTMENT SHOULD TRANSMIT FINAL SOVIET DRAWINGS WHEN SOVIETS STILL HAVE NOT APPROVED US PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS. VORONTSOV WAS TOLD OF THIS REACTION AND HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT WE WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY. VORONTSOV SAID THAT HE WOULD CABLE MOSCOW, AND HE ADDED THAT IN FUTURE WHEN DIFFICULTIES WERE ENCOUNTERED OR ANTICIPATED, EUR/SOV SHOULD INFORM HIM SO THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY COULD SEEK TO INTERCEDE ON OUR BEHALF. END FYI. KISSINGER

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